

REMARKS

This paper is responsive to an Official Action that issued in this case on November 25, 2005. In that Action, the Office issued a four-way election requirement. In particular, the claims were alleged to define four patentably distinct species as follows:

- Species 1, as defined by claims 1-33, 40-42, and 53-61;
- Species 2, as defined by claims 34-42 and 53-61;
- Species 3, as defined by claims 43-46; and
- Species 4, as defined by claims 47-52.

Applicants elect Species 3 for prosecution. Claims 1-42 and 47-61 are hereby canceled without prejudice. Applicants expect to pursue the canceled claims, or variants thereof, in one or more divisional applications.

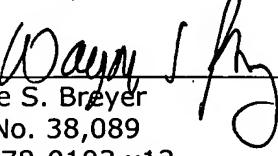
Since Species 3, as defined by the Office, only includes 4 claims, the applicants have added new claims 62 through 93 to more completely claim the many novel structural aspects of applicants' invention. The new claims include two independent claims — claims 75 and 89.

Applicants have endeavored to draft new claims that are appropriate for inclusion into "Species 3." That is, the new claims avoid the "functional" descriptions of structure that characterized the bulk of the non-elected claims.

Many of the new claims were previously presented in a slightly different format. For example, new dependent claim 62 is quite similar to originally-filed independent claim 47. But now, the structure that is recited in dependent claim 62 is related to the structure that is recited in claim 43 in such a way that inclusion in the elected Species would seem to be appropriate. That is, such claims simply provide further definition of the claimed subject matter.

If any issues remain that will delay prosecution on the merits, the Examiner is requested to telephone the undersigned for prompt resolution.

Respectfully,

By 
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